

Preserve media diversity

I would like to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

The rules under consideration for revision were put in place to protect media diversity and protect competition. I do not understand why this administration would take an action that would undermine competition, when it repeats so often that competition is its guiding economic principle. In this case these rules not only protect competition, but promote democracy by helping ensure that the public has access to a wide diversity of news sources and viewpoints. This access is essential to a well functioning democracy.

The studies commissioned by the FCC try to show that the proposed changes won't negatively affect media diversity because there are more sources of media than ever before. A large number of sources doesn't automatically imply that those sources are diverse. What's missing in the analysis is a recognition of the fact that the range of viewpoints presented has become more homogenous in recent years.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules as they are, with their protections for competition and diversity.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Jones  
1285 Bollinger Canyon Rd.  
Moraga, CA 94556